Nepal on April 20, 2006, the Special Envoy of Prime Minister Dr. Karan Singh discussed the current situation in Nepal and conveyed India's concern at the developing situation.

(b) No decisions were taken at the meeting.

Traffic patterns for planned Urban Development

3534. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to predict traffic patterns for planned urban development, Government are setting up a National Urban Transport Information Centre to serve as traffic, emission, ridership and travel behaviour;

(b) if so, whether data centres would help policy-makers and implementation agencies to determine the feasibility of the project being undertaken;

(c) whether this move has assumed significance in backdrop of the recent budget announcement on having metro system in Hyderabad, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) A National Urban Transport Information Centre has been set up to compile, collate and disseminate data that would be relevant for urban transport planning in general. It would help in developing appropriate policies and plans and also in making relevant investment decisions. There is no direct connection with any specific project and it is intended to benefit decision making on proposals for investments in urban transport systems in general.

Bangladesh bus service to Guwahati

3535. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh is keen to expand its bus service up to Guwahati as well as to strengthen waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government of Bangladesh made a proposal in June 2005 for certain new bus routes including Dhaka-Guwahati. This, along with our own proposals, are being discussed with the Government of Bangladesh.

Government of India have made proposals to strengthen waterways under the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade. Government of Bangladesh have not responded to our proposals.

Revival of democracy in Nepal

3536. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government mediated between the King and the leaders of the seven party alliance (SPA) for revival of the process of democracy in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also sponsored/delegated individuals as its emissaries to hold talks with the leaders of the banned Maoist outfits in Nepal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the broad objectives, if any, behind the initiatives taken by Government during the recent pro-democracy agitation in Nepal and role of the banned Maoist outfit therein; and

(f) the role, if any, being envisaged of itself by Government in the present situation in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.